



Education News

Volume 8, Issue 4

John C. Stennis Space Center

Nov./Dec. 2004

EDUCATION NOTES

K - 12

Apply to be a NASA Explorer School by visiting the Web site <http://explorerschools.nasa.gov>.

Tell your fellow educators to sign up for Education News updates at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>.

See page three to find out about a free Astro Camp opportunity at StenniSphere!

Higher Education

Summer internship applications will be due before you know it. Start preparing now for summer 2005 internship opportunities.

Information about NASA's Science and Technology Scholarship Program — coming in December!

Visit <http://education.nasa.gov> for information about NASA education programs.

Applications available this winter for NASA scholarships



NASA hopes to attract some of the nation's best and brightest science and engineering students through the new Science and Technology Scholarship Program (STSP). The STSP will provide tuition scholarships and research stipend support to students in exchange for a service obligation to NASA after graduation. The program will be in place for the 2005-2006 school year.

Applications for the STSP will be available this winter.

For information about NASA's STSP visit http://education.nasa.gov/divisions/higher/overview/F_pathfinder_scholarship.html. Information and applications for the scholarship should be posted in December; applications will be due in March.

\$\$ for college!

NASA Student Involvement Program competition deadlines approaching

There is still time to participate in the NASA Student Involvement Program (NSIP) competition. Students in grades K-12 can complete research projects in numerous categories linked to NASA's missions of exploration and discovery. Entries are judged at NASA centers across the country.

High school winners receive a trip for two students and one teacher to the NASA Explorer Schools Student Symposium to present their research projects.

Entries for the Space Flight Opportunities category of the competition are due by Jan. 15, while all other entries are due by Jan. 31.

Visit <http://www.nsip.net> for more information.

Visit our Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>



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What's new in . . .

The NASA Portal

NASA's Web site has been redesigned to better serve the education community by including information about NASA's various programs in one place.

The "For Educators" section of the NASA Web site has been enhanced with five new areas.

These new areas can be found in a new navigation bar appearing across the top of all the "For Educators" grade level areas. The new areas are:

Classroom Subjects - This area contains links to the best NASA sites for 73 subject areas.

Educational Materials - View listings by subject, grade level or product type.

Act Now - This area highlights dated opportunities.

Education TV Schedule - This area of the Web site includes the NASA Education File schedule and educational program descriptions.

EXPRESS Mailing List - This section allows you to sign up for NASA's EXPRESS Mailing List to receive information about NASA educational products and opportunities.

To view the new sections visit <http://www.nasa.gov> and enter any of the "For Educators" grade levels.

Applications now available online for higher education internships

Deadlines for various higher education internship and fellowship opportunities are approaching quickly. Check out these exciting programs that offer opportunities to work at a NASA center:

NASA Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP)

Undergraduate students have the unique opportunity to conduct mentored research at NASA centers across the United States. Students with a concentration in engineering, mathematics, computer science or physical/life sciences should visit <http://education.nasa.gov/usrp> for more information. Applications are due Jan. 31.

Graduate Student Researchers Program (GSRP)

The NASA GSRP awards fellowships for graduate study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees in science, mathematics and engineering. Applications are due Feb. 1. If you have questions about the application process visit <http://education.nasa.gov/gsrp/>.

NASA Summer Faculty Research Opportunities

University faculty have the opportunity to spend 10 weeks conducting research at a NASA center. Applications for summer 2005 will be available online soon. For more information visit <http://www.asee.org/resources/fellowships/nffp>.



SSC offers JASON training

The NASA Educator Resource Center at Stennis Space Center (SSC) is pleased to be a training site for the JASON Project. The next two years of the program will focus on "The Disappearing Wetlands" Expedition in Louisiana. Become part of the wetlands experience by participating in a JASON workshop.

Dr. Marco Giardino of NASA's Applied Sciences Directorate at SSC is one of the host researchers for the JASON "Disappearing Wetlands" Expedition.

To register for JASON Project workshops visit <http://www.jason.org> then select "JASON Interactive Science Workshops" and then the "Local Workshops" link. You will be able to select your state and find locations where workshops are offered that will train you to use the JASON curriculum in your classroom. The JASON curriculum meets national standards in science, math, social studies, language arts and technology.

Live broadcasts for the "Disappearing Wetlands" Expedition will be shown at StenniSphere this January. Visit <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov/erc/workshops.asp> to find out about JASON workshops.

<http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>

...to inspire the next generation of explorers

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Free Astro Camp activities to be held at StenniSphere

StenniSphere, the visitor center at NASA Stennis Space Center, will offer free Astro Camp activities for all visitors during the Thanksgiving holidays – Friday, Nov. 26, and Saturday, Nov. 27. StenniSphere has planned this special holiday Astro Camp event to offer families a break from shopping or as entertainment for out-of-town guests.

The celebration of the 35th anniversary of Apollo 11, the first human lunar landing in 1969, continues with an exhibit featuring a Moon rock and Apollo-era spacesuits. Tours of the test stands where engines were tested for the Moon rocket are also offered.

StenniSphere is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; public tours begin at 10 a.m. at the Launch Pad, located at the I-10, Exit 2, Hancock County, Miss., Welcome Center.

For more information, call (228) 688-2370 or 1-800-237-1821 or visit www.ssc.nasa.gov/public/visitors.



Apply now to become a NASA Explorer School



Dr. Adena Loston (standing, left), NASA Education Officer from Headquarters in Washington, D.C., visited students at South Delta Middle School, a NASA Explorer School, in Anguilla, Miss. Loston and Astronaut Scott Parazynski inspired students to reach for their dreams.

Schools across the country are eligible to apply for an opportunity to partner with NASA in a program designed to bring engaging mathematics, science and technology learning to educators, students and families.

Each spring, a three-year partnership is established between NASA and 50 new NASA Explorer School teams, consisting of teachers and education administrators from diverse communities across the country.

NASA invites the selected teams to work with education specialists from NASA centers in an effort to spark innovative science and mathematics instruction for students in grades 4 through 9. While partnered with NASA, NASA Explorer School teams will acquire new teaching resources and technology tools using NASA's unique content, experts and other resources to provide students with exciting learning experiences in science, mathematics and technology.

The deadline for submission of the online application for NASA Explorer Schools is Jan. 31. Apply online at <http://explorerschools.nasa.gov>.

Apply today!



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Look for us at...

Staff from the NASA Educator Resource Center (ERC) at SSC will be on hand at each of these events to distribute NASA educational materials.

- **Regional GEAR UP** conference in Biloxi, Miss., Oct. 31 - Nov. 2.
- **The National School Reform Conference** in Biloxi, Miss., Dec. 8-11. (Please note: Teachers in the Gulf Coast Education Initiative Consortium districts will receive a special price break for this conference.)

Spots still available in NASA workshops

The Educator Resource Center at SSC offers exciting, hands-on professional development workshops for educators. It is not too late to sign up for SSC workshops this fall.

Visit <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov/erc/workshops.asp> to find out about the workshops that are being offered.

Also, keep an eye out for a new ERC workshop schedule in the mail.

All workshops are free of charge and offer continuing education credits.

NASA Education News e-mail updates

Educators, sign up to receive e-mail updates about the NASA Education News.

We want to inform as many educators as possible about the great education programs that are available at NASA SSC. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving information about NASA education programs visit our Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>.

to sign up for free e-mail updates.

Get excited about robotics education!

FIRST Robotics and FIRST LEGO League season kicks off soon

The 2005 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics competition and the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) seasons will kick off soon.

FLL tournaments will be held Nov. 6 at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jackson County campus and Nov. 13 at Bonabel High School in Kenner, La.

FIRST Robotics regional competitions will be held throughout the United States this spring, with many NASA-sponsored teams participating in the competitions.

NASA Stennis Space Center is active in both FIRST and FLL, sponsoring teams in Mississippi and Louisiana. The SSC Educator Resource Center also conducts professional development workshops for educators interested in robotics education.

Educators are encouraged to attend the competitions and to get involved with robotics education. NASA grants are available.

Visit <http://robotics.arc.nasa.gov> for more information about NASA's Robotics Education Program. Visit <http://www.usfirst.org> to learn more about FIRST and FLL.



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Visit the Stennis Space Center
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